



Open Gates

A publication of the
Gates Cactus & Succulent Society
August 2018



NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY, August 1st at 7:00 PM
AT THE REDLANDS CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1307 E CITRUS AVE, IN REDLANDS, CA

Plants of the Month

Cactus – Melocactus

Succulent –
 Caudiciform,
 Pachycaul

Save the Date!

AUG. 11-12 - 33rd Annual
 Intercity Show and Sale

Sept. 1st -
 Huntington
 Botanical Garden
 succulent
 symposium

Sept. 15th - Long
 Beach Cactus Club
 Annual Plant
 Actuion

From Our President:

Thank you to Ernesto Sandoval for presenting us last month with such a fun and informative talk on seed propagation. He was packed full for useful tips for those who want to or improve their seed propagation techniques. Ernesto said he will make his talk available to anyone is interested. Let me know if you are.

We will have another exceptional succulent speaker this month. Karen Zimmerman is no stranger to the cactus and succulent societies. If you happen to have one of those beautiful or strange-looking aloe hybrid plants, chances are you own one of Karen's many hybrid creations.

The long, sunny, and balmy days of summer are all around us. The days seem long but yet you still feel like there's not enough time to work in your garden. You are not alone with those thoughts!

The Board is planning on our annual BBQ/cactus cook-off. Set your calendar for **Saturday, September 29, 2018**. This year the venue will be in Reche Canyon and the Romans will be our host. Further detail are being finalized but start concocting your favorite and amazing cactus dish for bragging rights in the cook-off.

There are still ample of opportunities to enjoy and participate in many remaining planned cactus/succulent show and sales around our area.

Please feel free to share your favorite photos of cactus and/or succulents with the club. Email pictures of your ever-evolving garden, plant design, or anything pertaining to drought tolerant plants to our newsletter editor, Trisha.

Thanks for bringing the munchies!

-Phuc

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Leadership Team 2018

Our Program This Month

Karen Zimmerman

“Aloes on My Mind,
Exploring Aloe Hybrids
One Generation at a
Time”

I start with
an overview of the
genus aloe;
distribution and
diversity of species.



I talk a little about the work of hybridizers up to the present, with a special mention about Kelly Griffin, my inspiration to try my hand at it. I show parent plants and offspring, some that became good enough to name and distribute, and others that became disappointments. Then I showed some promising babies and future possibilities.



BIO

I've always been drawn to growing plants. The first plants I grew from seed were pine trees. A small local nursery gave my best friend and me an envelope of pine seeds, and I can still remember the deep excitement and awe when they germinated! We were 10 years old. I also remember years later, my mother pointing to the rear of the yard asking, "Karen, where did that tree come from?" That Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*) was as tall as the electric lines by then. I still get that same "Christmas morning" excitement when a batch of new aloe hybrid babies germinate. It's even better when they start

to develop some character, often very early with the first true leaf.

Despite careful breeding for specific traits such as color, size or toothiness, unexpected anomalies can appear in any breeding, especially given how complicated these aloe hybrids have become with generations of species and crosses in the mix. The standouts are, of course, the ones I crave!

Photography is another great love of mine, and I find it pairs well with horticulture. It is easy to overlook small details, and you can really see them through a lens up close. I love to share tiny wonders.



Mini Show Results

Please remember to CLEARLY fill out the Mini show entry forms. **Incomplete or illegible forms will be disqualified.** Please note, we will no longer have the Large and Small categories.

Photographs

Novice

- 1st – Echeveria bumps hybrid – June Scales
- 2nd – Moustuche aloe – June Scales
- 2nd – Cereus hexagonal – June Scales
- 3rd – Astrophutum sp – Trisha Davis

Intermediate

- 1st – Ferocactus cylindraceus – Mike Madrigal
- 2nd – Pseudolithos cubiformis – Mike Madrigal
- 3rd – Echinocactus grusonii – Mike Madrigal
- 3rd – Aloe marlothii – Mike Madrigal

Advanced

- 1st – Echinocereus rigidissimus – Tommy Dodson
- 2nd – Echinocereus mojavensis – Tommy Dodson
- 3rd – Oroya peruviana – Tommy Dodson

2018 Upcoming Events

- AUG. 11-12 33rd ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE AT THE
LA COUNTY ARBORETUM, 9am-5pm daily.
301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA.
INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH 626-798-2430 or JOHN MARTINEZ
805-390-2139
- SEPT. 1 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON 626-405-3504
- SEPT 15 LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION -12-5PM
RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS, 6400 BIXBY HILL ROAD, LONG BEACH, CA
90615 INFO. 562-631-5876
- Oct. 13-14 BAKERSFIELD CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY
SHOW & SALE SAT. 10-5---SUN. 11-3 ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, 2216
17th STREET
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304 FREE ADMMISSION & PARKING, INFO
661-8318488
- OCT. 27-28 PALOMAR CACTUS &SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SHOW AND SALE
SAT 10-5, SUN 10-3, SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDENS
230 QUAIL GARDENS ROAD, ENCINITAS, CA
INFO BritaMiller1@g-mail.com
- NOV. 10-11 SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 9am-4pm BOTH DAYS
SHOW AND SALE---LA COUNTY ARBORETUM 310 NO. BALDWIN,
ARCADIA, CA MANNY RIVERA 626-780-6957 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-714-
1052

Caudiciforms, Pachycauls

By: Buck Hemenway

Many of the most sought-after succulent plants belong in this grouping. The grouping is made up of plants that 'look' a certain way. They grow on fat bases. These fat plant bases are not necessarily special organs or plant structures, such as bulbs or corms. They are just fat and we like them!

Caudiciforms are plants that usually have fat structures (*Caudexes*) that grow at or below the ground surface. These are just big fat roots, until the grower decides to raise them so they are exposed to the air and to our appreciating eyes.

Pachycauls are plants that tend to have fat bases with spindly or even vining branches. Think of a big *Pachypodium lamerei* for example. The base of the plant is kind of like an elongated pear and the branches get sturdier with the passing years.

These plants come from a number of genera and there is no finite list of them. Just consider that if your plant wants its roots raised up and exposed, then it is most likely a *Caudiciform*. If its base or trunk is out of proportion to the overall size of the plant (and is a succulent) then it is most likely a *Pachycaul*.

They are normally very easy to grow, but a large percentage of them are endemic to sub tropical and tropical climates. For that reason, cold is a big enemy. Some study is required before deciding where to permanently install one of these plants.

Some of the most common are the *Beaucarnia recurvata* (Pony Tail Palm), *Pachypodium lamerei* (Madagascar palm), *Adenium obesum* (Desert rose), *Fockea edulis*, *Trichodiadema bulbosum* and up to 2,000 other individual plant names.

Prices for most can be pretty expensive for mature plants, and they always bring top money at the big auctions.

Many of the *Pachycauls* become extremely large with age. Pictures of *Adenium socotranum* on the island of Socotra are unbelievable. The bases are as large as automobiles. We all know of some extremely large *Beaucarnia recurvata*. This is a really enjoyable section of our hobby. These plants are always looked upon with awe by hobbyists and experts alike.



Trichodiadema bulbosum



Pachypodium succulentum (roots exposed)



Cyphostemma juttae (waiting for leaves)

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